And finally the reply is that it has not been found possible to shift the headquarters of Tea Board from Calcutta. That means a n attempt has been made.....

MR. SPEAKER: You are just confusing the issue. Please ask the question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, in the reply it has been said that it has not been found possible to shift the headquarters. It means that an attempt has been made. That is the apprehension.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Shifting of the Head Office of the Tea Board to a major tea producing state is the natural demand of the people of that state. However, since the hon. Minister expressed his inability to do so, due to various reasons, will the hon. Minister, as an alternative, through a poor alternative, consider strengthening the regional offices at Guvahati and Coonoor by giving them more responsibility and more power to take decisions on urgent matters since these offices are at the moment a mere apology for the regional offices?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think, all hon. Members will welcome decentralisation of powers so that the needs of the growers can be dealt with at a decentralised level if the Tea Board offices are closer to the tea estates. What we have done is to set up a Chief Regional Executive's office in Guvahati. If the hon. Member says that this is an apology for decentralised functions, I am willing to look into it. In addition to the decentralised powers, if more powers are to be given to these offices to deal with the grievances, problems and developmental activities of the region we will certainly look into them.

MR. SPEAKER: Without shifting?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not shifting the headquarters. That is what I have said.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Is it a fact that already seven departments have been shifted? Will the Minister assure the House that all the activities that were previously being undertaken by the Head Offices will be restored to it?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed. He has already answered that.

(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: The question has already been answered in categorical terms and you are repeating it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is just carrying the cue again. When the minister says in specific terms on the floor of the House that he is not shifting it, you are depending on the cue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Some of the departments have already been transferred....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is unnecessary.

(*Interruptions*)..

[*Translation*]

Ban on Export of Frogs, Rabbits and Monkeys

*718. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban in the export of frogs, rabbits, monkeys and other animals of this kind;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lift the ban imposed on the export of these animals;

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount of foreign exchange earned each year before imposing ban on their export?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b). (i) Export of Monkeys has been banned since 23rd November, 1977;

(ii) Export of Frogs has been banned since 30.3.1988.

(iii) Export of Rabbits have been banned since 1.4.1980.

(c). No, Sir.

(d). In view of the above, question does not arise, because of the policy of the Government to protect the Wild Life and environment as well as for maintaining of ecological balance.

(e). 1) The amount of foreign exchange earned during the period 1973-77 on export of Monkeys is indicated in the statement laid before the House.

2) The figures on the amount earned on the export of frogs and rabbits is not maintained.

STATEMENT

Year	*Quantity (in No.s)*	*Value (Rs. lakhs)*
1973-74	32975	40.59
1974-75	29078	33.75
1975-76	27906	50.06
1976-77	20267	84.63

The animals, Frogs and Rabbits are not separately classified under Indian Trade Classification Rev.2 on the basis of which Foreign Trade Statistics of India are compiled. However, data showing export of "live animals chiefly for food n.e.s.(e.g. rabbit, game bird, Chickens, deer, frogs, hares, pigeons, etc)" during 1977-78,1978-79,1979-80,1984-85 and 1986-87 are as under:-

Year	*Quantity (In Nos.)*	*Value (Rs. in lakhs)*
1977-78	10,000	0.33
1978-79	14,32,019	43.90
1979-80	16,200	1.25
1984-85	19,233	3.34
1985-86	5,350	0.20
1986-87	4,000	0.18

(Sources:- Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol.I (Exports) published by DGCI & S, Calcutta.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Have some cases of the illegal exports of the wild animals been come to the notice of the Government? If so, the action taken thereto by the Government and what action is being taken by the Govern-

ment against the reported illegal exports of skins of such wild animals?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the illegal exports do not come to the notice of Ministry of Commerce. I am sure, there are cases of illegal exports. But this question should be addressed to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Customs who will be able to tell whether there are illegal exports or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the monkeys are found in large number in Himachal Pradesh, which cause a heavy damage to the crops there and all the methods employed to catch them have been failed. So I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister through you whether the Government would lift the ban on the export of monkeys in order to save the crops of fruits, vegetables and grain in Himachal Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have no objection if Government or any other organisation catches the monkeys. My objection is only to the export of monkeys which is banned.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that frogs are still being exported and because of that the paddy crop in Thane district and many other districts is damaged. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of it and if they do not know about it whether they would collect the information and give it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said earlier, the hon. Member's choice of the verb is not correct. Forces are not exported. Export has been banned. Frogs may be smuggled out. That is a question which has to be addressed to the Department of Customs who handle the smuggling. I cannot answer on behalf of them.

Reinstatement of SC/ST Employees of D.T.C.

*719. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of more than 500 SC/ST D.T.C. conductors/drivers who had rendered more than two years' service in the grade were dispensed with during 1988;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reinstate these employees; and

(c) the time by which all these employees are likely to be reinstated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal before the Government to reinstate these employees as DTC is having surplus employees.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: These employees were given employment to clear the backlog of SC and ST. Do you have that backlog still existing?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We have the backlog. Whenever the vacancies arise, we will take them.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: What about these vacancies? They were taken against that backlog. Have these vacancies been filled or not?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Whatever is the requirement of emplyees needed in the D.T.C., we are trying to clear the backlog.